

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
ADVISORY TASK FORCE
14TH MEETING
SUMMARY
Friday, January 10, 2003**

Prepared by:

Department of Natural Resources

Office of Conservation

Ground Water Management Staff

Call To Order

Advisory Task Force members in attendance:

Karen Gautreaux, Governor's Office

Jess Barr, Cotton Producer's Association

Herschel L. Bourque, Louisiana Ground Water Association

Representative William Daniel, Representing the Speaker of the House

Dr. Rene` De Hon, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Geology Department

Charles R. Demas, USGS, Water Resources Division

Henry T. Graham, Jr., Louisiana Chemical Association

Bradford Hanson, Louisiana Geological Survey

Robert Jackson, New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board

Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Steve Levine, Association of Public Utilities

Paul "Jackie" Loewer, Louisiana Rice Growers Association

R. Michael Lyons, Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association

Kyle McCann, Louisiana Farm Bureau

Olevia McDonald, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Jeffrey A. Nunn, L.S.U. Department of Geology

Eugene H. Owen, Municipal Water Association

Bradley E. Spicer, Soil and Water Conservation

Charles W. Stahr, Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association

Linda M. Walker, League of Women Voters

Michael W. Wascom, Citizens for a Clean Environment

Update on Staff Activities

A total of 603 Water Well Information Sheets have been received by the Office of Conservation.

The usual items have been posted on the web site including the transcript of the initial public hearing for the Sparta application for a critical ground water area designation. The Office of Conservation received 34 written comments regarding the Sparta Hearing.

The *Statewide Water Management Program – A Plan for Implementation* with the cover letters is also available on the web site. Volumes I, II and III of the C. H. Fenstermaker report were delivered to the Legislative Oversight Committee along with the plan for implementation.

Advisory Task Force Committee Reports

No reports were given.

Old Business: Discussion of the *Statewide Water Management Program – A Plan for Implementation*: Implementation Recommendations – Item 1.

Brent Sonnier gave a power point presentation regarding ground water rights and Louisiana Constitutional, Civil and Statutory Law and Jurisprudence. There are four general ground water rights doctrines; absolute ownership, prior appropriation, reasonable use and correlative rights. Mr. Sonnier explained the history of water rights before and after Act 446. Louisiana has followed the “rule of capture” and Act 446 lays the foundation for departure from that rule. There were many questions from the Advisory Task Force and Ground Water Management Commission members present.

There was discussion of the proposed model legislation and rules, expansion of jurisdiction, the three ground water regions, the five water resource districts, a 3-tiered administrative process and hearings and decisions.

Advisory Task Force Questions and Comments

There were several questions from the Advisory Task Force regarding Mr. Sonnier’s presentation on water rights and Louisiana law. The Surface and Ground Water Committee will meet separately to discuss the issues further in order to make a recommendation to the Advisory Task Force.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Question and Comment

There were neither questions nor comments.

Schedule of Next Meeting

The Advisory Task Force will meet on Friday, January 17, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in the Griffon Room of the LaSalle Building.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.